

**The Morning News Aruba
Christmas Edition**

**Obama signs repeal of
'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' pg 2**

**December is AIDS
awareness month**



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Thursday, December 23, 2010

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MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Obama signs repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'

WASHINGTON (AFP) — President Barack Obama yesterday signed a law allowing gays to serve openly in the military, repealing the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy in a sweeping and historic shift for the US armed forces.

"We are not a nation that says 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell.' We are a nation that says, 'Out of many, we are one,'" Obama said in a raucous and emotive ceremony at the Interior Department in Washington.

"We are a nation that welcomes the service of every patriot," Obama said.

The signing ceremony reconciled a promise from Obama's 2008 campaign, and followed a political and moral crusade by activists, and years of opposition from conservatives and some sectors of the military establish-



US President Barack Obama(C) signs the Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010 into law at the Department of the Interior in Washington, DC.

ment.

The change in policy, which rights activists have compared to the fall of the Berlin Wall, the integration of the military in 1948 and the great civil rights legislation of the 1960s, will not be enacted overnight, however.

Obama, Defense Secretary Robert Gates and the chair-

man of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Michael Mullen must certify that lifting the ban on gays serving openly can be done without harming readiness, effectiveness, unit cohesion, and recruitment.

Once the certification is made, the change will enter into force within 60 days.

European airports race to clear Christmas backlog

LONDON, England (AFP) — Snowbound European airports raced yesterday to clear the backlog of stranded passengers amid frantic efforts to get everyone to their destination for Christmas as weather conditions improved.

In London, Paris and Frankfurt, the continent's busiest airports were running a slimmed-down schedule in a bid to get thousands of weary travellers to their destinations before Christmas Day on Saturday.

Around 1,000 passengers spent the night at London Heathrow, the world's busiest international passenger airport, in the hope of flying out after days of cancelled flights and frustration.

Eurocontrol, the continent's air traffic supervisory body, said about 3,000 flights had been cancelled across Europe on Tuesday, with similar numbers of cancellations for each of the previous four days.

Airport officials were under increasing pressure to resolve the crisis after the European Union blasted the "unacceptable" disruption, but weather reports said snow could persist in northern Europe.

At Paris-Charles de Gaulle, continental Europe's busiest airport, 15 percent of flights were cancelled between 1700 GMT and 2200 GMT yesterday as snow flurries were forecast, while the schedule was to be slashed by 25 percent

throughout today.

Services at Frankfurt Airport, Germany's main hub, were improving though 70 early flights were cancelled.

Overnight some 300 people slept in the terminals, while others were taken to local hotels.

Flights got going again at Dublin Airport after the authorities cleared ice and more than 15 centimetres (six inches) of snow.

Things were largely back to normal at Brussels Airport, with only a few flights to Switzerland scrapped.

Thick fog grounded planes at the Bulgarian capital Sofia, forcing diversions to Plovdiv in the south and airports in neighbouring countries.

While rail services across Europe were also affected, Eurostar was able to run 43 out of 52 high-speed passenger services between London, Paris and Brussels after severe disruptions earlier in the week.

The wintry weather caused cancellations and delays on public transport across Scandinavia. Two sections of the E6 motorway, which runs down the spine of Norway into Sweden, were shut.

Denmark recorded its lowest December temperature since 1981, minus 22.5C (-8.5F).

In Russia, eight people were killed when a bus smashed into a truck in the western Siberian region of Krasnoyarsk.

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The Golden Rule; We can all give a gift to loved ones and our community- without reaching in our pockets

When asked to write the Christmas message for THE MORNING NEWS, I was faced with something of a dilemma, as I was going through one of the most annoying days I had experienced in a while, so a message of Peace on Earth and Goodwill towards Men was not easily coming to mind.

This culminated in an even more annoying incident to finish off my day. After covering a story at the Westin Resort, where a big Christmas bash was taking place in the ballroom, I walked out to find I had been neatly boxed in by four cars and it was impossible for me to get in my car and go home.

If only a single one of the car owners would come out and move, I would be able to depart. Despite a valiant effort by Westin security people, none of the drivers could be located. The truly inconsiderate so-and-so who placed their truck as to make it impossible for me to get out was identified by security, circumstances were such as they know exactly which was the culprit. Westin Events Manager Rafael Ramiro kindly drove me home and after a night to settle down, I was able to retrieve my car the next morning.

What has this to do with



our title? Well, the simple gift that every one of us can give to our friends, loved ones, and the general community is a little CONSIDERATION; ideally, not only during holiday season, but all year round. Certainly, we should give at least what we would hope to receive.

During this time of year, our days are often filled with more stress than usual; both for island residents and visitors. Waiting on line to get towels, palapas, lounges, a

seat in a restaurant and through the long lines in the airport will try anyone's patience, to be sure. However, consider the entire situation in context; you are on a vacation in a stunning destination, possibly about to sit down for a meal in a lovely restaurant with loved ones. How many people in today's world would be very happy to have a warm place to gather with their families and a descent, much less gourmet, meal? I know it is the old "Remember the starving children in China!" mentality, but actually, being thankful and appreciative for what we have is not a cliché. Perhaps you will have to wait an hour for your towels, but you can listen to palm trees swaying in the breeze and enjoy the balmy temperatures, rather than freezing and shoveling snow.

Islanders will be dealing with congested traffic, long lines at the supermarket and banks, and likely, some essential ingredient needed for that special dish will not be on the shelves; such is island life and holiday time. Taking it out on the cashier or other

drivers will not solve the problem and likely account for the spike in traffic accidents Aruba experiences at the end of the year.

Consideration also means being grateful for what we do have; we at THE MORNING NEWS wish to express our deep and sincere gratitude to all those who supported and believed in this undertaking when we opened our doors in January. The structure of THE MORNING NEWS is

democratic and quite unique; a group of newspaper veterans doing what they love, all of us on an equal basis. We thank the many readers who have responded to our publication with dedication and feedback, whether complimentary or correctively critical. We know this was a daring venture in these uncertain times, but we have been fortunate in seeing this venture an unqualified success. We expect to provide even more interesting and innovative surprises for our readers and sponsors in 2011.

A newspaper needs to be a trusted media source; in this the concept of consideration for the community again comes into play. Not only are we here to report events as accurately as possible in an enjoyable manner, but we accept our responsibility to the community to assist in the betterment of the less fortunate. This is the time when we reflect on what has been and what will be over the next year; instead of getting steamed up the next time you are stuck on line or in traffic, spend some time thinking about it.

Seasons Greetings to everyone from the whole team of The Morning News.

by Rosalie Klein



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"Wikileaks" enters the English language



LOS ANGELES, California – It happened to Xerox and more recently to Google, and now "wikileaks" has joined the list of proper names that are common enough to enter the English language as their own word.

Texas-based Global Language Monitor on Tuesday said the website WikiLeaks, which has publicly released thousands of confidential U.S. government documents, has been referred to by so many people that it has met the criteria of reach, depth and breadth to be considered its own word.

"Wikileaks joins a number of new media and high technology companies whose names and functions are being incorporated into the lan-

guage," said Paul JJ Payack, who heads Global Language Monitor (GLM). "These include Google, Twitter and the 'friending' function of Facebook."

GLM's research shows the word first appearing in global media in 2006. It has now been cited more than 300 million times. The group's standards include a minimum of 25,000 citations in English-speaking media.

Payack said that as a word, wikileaks is spelled without the capitalized "W" or "L", but when referring to the website, the spelling remains WikiLeaks. It is similar to when Google is used as a verb, as in "googled," or searched, for a subject.

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'Freedom Riders': The fight to end segregation

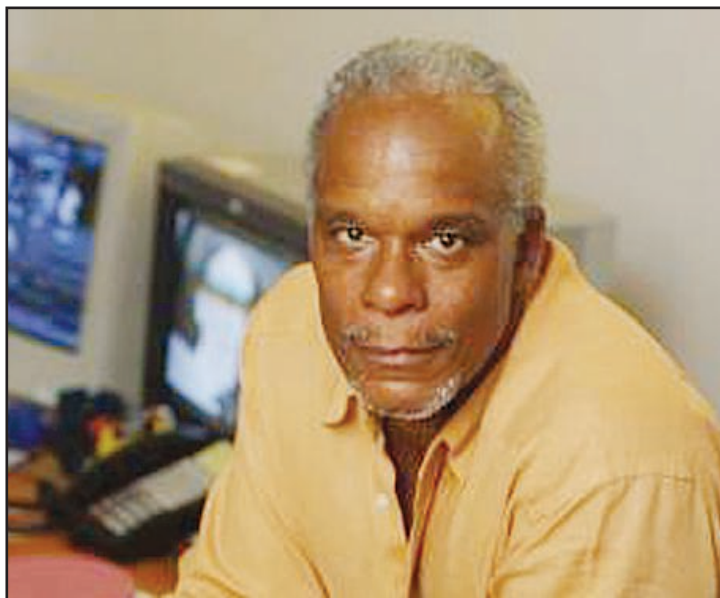
In this 2008 publicity image released by Firelight Media, documentary filmmaker Stanley Nelson is shown at the Firelight Media offices in New York. Nelson says his new documentary about the courageous activists who defiantly opposed the 1960s segregation of the South may help inspire a new generation of youth.

The film, 'Freedom Riders,' recounts the 1961 crusade by daring young activists intent on ending segregated travel on interstate buses in the Deep South.

The American Experience film, set to air May 16 on PBS, has been generating buzz on the film festival circuit ever since its showing at Sundance in January.

Nelson said the great lesson of "Freedom Riders" is how ordinary citizens — much like the hundreds of activists who rode into the South — can bring about change.

"Freedom Riders" recalls a time in U.S. history that must never be forgotten.



Stanley Nelson



A May 1961 file photograph shows a Freedom Rider bus that went up in flames when a fire bomb was tossed through a window near Anniston, Alabama.

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"Avatar" the most pirated film of 2010

NEW YORK CITY — Drum-roll please ... "Avatar" is the most pirated film of the year, according to data released by a file-sharing blog.

The biggest film in history was downloaded from torrent websites 16.6 million times, according to TorrentFreak. That represents a 33% increase in download activity from last

year's top-pirated film, "Star Trek," which was downloaded just under 11 million times.

20th Century Fox, which distributed the sci-fi epic, isn't exactly crying. The film grossed nearly \$2.8 billion at the worldwide box office to become the highest-grossing movie ever (before accounting for inflation).

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DESERT BLOOM GIFT SET:
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\$37

4.



ISLAND REMEDY GIFT BASKET:
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5.



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Maryland vote threatens Preakness at Pimlico



LAUREL, Maryland (AFP) — The future of the Preakness at Pimlico, which has staged the second jewel in US flat racing's Triple Crown since 1873, was in doubt Tuesday after a Maryland racing commission vote.

The board has voted to reject a proposal by the owners of Pimlico Race Course and Laurel Park to conduct live racing next year. Unless an

agreement is reached, neither track will hold thoroughbred races in 2011.

"It's disappointing the parties involved could not reach an agreement," Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley said in a statement. "We are prepared to aggressively protect the state's interests, as we did two years ago when presented with the threat of losing Maryland's treasured

Preakness Stakes.

"We will continue to explore the legal options available to us."

The tracks' owners say they can't make a profit hosting live racing without the big crowds such as those that attend the Preakness.

They proposed 146 days of live racing, but also asked horsemen to give up simulcasting revenue and make other concessions, proposals that were turned down.

On Monday, a proposal to run 78 live days was rejected 8-0 by the commission, jeopardizing the future of racing in Maryland.

The Preakness is traditionally the second leg of the Triple Crown, run between the Kentucky Derby and Belmont Stakes.

Jackson not a fan of Christmas Day games



LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Los Angeles Lakers coach Phil Jackson doesn't think a basketball game is the best expression of the Christmas spirit.

Jackson, who has guided teams to 11 NBA titles, reiterated his opposition to Christmas games on Tuesday as the Lakers prepared to take on Milwaukee — the defending NBA champions' last tune-up before a Christmas clash with Miami.

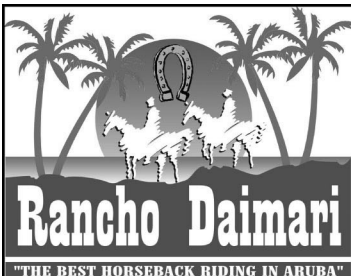
"It's like Christian holidays don't mean, to them, anything any more," said Jackson, the son of two Christian ministers. "Just go out and play and entertain the TV."

"It's really weird, but it is what it is. We have to go to work and make the best of it."

The Lakers have played on every Christmas since 1999. They played three straight against Miami when Shaquille O'Neal played for the Heat after being traded from Los Angeles.

Kobe Bryant has played on Christmas in 13 of his 15 NBA seasons.

"I don't think anybody should play on Christmas Day," Jackson said. "I don't understand it."



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Pacquiao to fight Mosley in Las Vegas: reports



Mosley (L), Pacquiao (R)

LOS ANGELES (AFP) – Filipino pound-for-pound king Manny Pacquiao plans to fight American Shane Mosley on May 7 in Las Vegas, US media reported.

Promoter Bob Arum told ESPN.com that Pacquiao will take on Mosley - a former champion in three divisions - for the World Boxing Organization welterweight title.

"We came to a meeting of the minds," Arum told the sports website. "I believe it will be an exciting fight. Shane knows how to fight and how to deal with the speed. Manny is in for a hellacious fight. I really believe styles make fights."

Mosley, a 39-year-old American, is 46-6 with one draw and 39 knockouts while Filipino superstar Pacquiao is 52-3 with two draws and 38 knockout.

"Pac-Man" has won 13

fighters in a row, the southpaw having not lost in nearly six years in a span that has seen him dispatch such stars as Oscar de la Hoya, Ricky Hatton, Antonio Margarito, Miguel Cotto and Juan Manuel Marquez.

Pacquiao has claimed world titles in eight weight classes, most recently taking the World Boxing Council super welterweight belt with a punishing victory over Margarito last month.

Mosley, meanwhile, has lost twice and struggled to a draw in his past five fights, falling to Puerto Rico's Cotto in 2007 and unbeaten Floyd Mayweather Jr last May before a draw against American Sergio Mora last September.

Mayweather has twice failed to come to terms on a fight deal with Pacquiao for the megafight showdown fans have desired and Mayweather

now faces legal charges over two incidents in Las Vegas set to go to court early next year.

Mosley was the biggest other US name among Pacquiao's possible foes, but also the one with the weakest recent results on a list that included a potential third fight with Marquez and a rising US star, undefeated welterweight Andre Berto.

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Red Sox ink Jenks to bolster bullpen

BOSTON, Massachusetts (AFP) – The Boston Red Sox finalized a two-year, 12 million-dollar contract with former White Sox closing pitcher Bobby Jenks on Tuesday, further shoring up a bullpen that was a weak link last season.

Though Jenks was the closer for Chicago when they won the World Series in 2005, that role of closing out victories in the ninth inning will remain with Jonathan Papelbon in Boston.

"We feel really lucky that Bobby wanted to pitch here and that we were able to get someone of his caliber to help Dan Bard set up for Papelbon," Red Sox general manager Theo Epstein said. "Hopefully, he will be part of a 'pen that will be one of the best we've had in Boston."

Jenks saved 27 games for the White Sox last season but lost his closing job at the end of the year as he struggled with a forearm problem.



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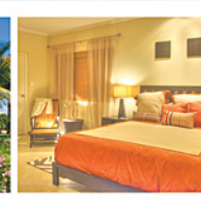
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Blatter defends World Cup choices in historic year

GENEVA (AFP) - FIFA President Sepp Blatter on Wednesday defended the "historic" choice of Russia and Qatar to host the World Cups in 2018 and 2022, calling it part of a "natural" progression into new regions.

The head of world football's governing body also paid tribute to South Africa's role in organising the world's most watched sporting event on the African continent for the first time.

"2010 has been a year of 'fulfilment', a historic year, one in which we've broken

new ground," Blatter said in an end-of-year interview on FIFA's website.

"We have made historic decisions in terms of sport and geopolitics. We've sent the World Cup to new territories," in eastern Europe and the Arab world, he added.

"When I became the FIFA President, the decision was made to go into Asia. And then I said we had to go to Africa, which is what we did."

"It's only natural, then, that we should keep on mov-

ing into new regions."

Blatter said he was delighted with the executive committee's choice of Russia and Qatar this month and suggested that critics did not understand that there was "more to football than just kicking a ball".

"The sporting media don't always appreciate the social or cultural importance of awarding the World Cup finals to a country," he explained.

"They just think about penalties, corners, refereeing and money. But, as I've al-

ready said, this decision wasn't about making money."

"The socio-cultural impact of the game on the future of our society is a subject that is close to my heart," he added in the guise of a message for the football Confederations' Congresses, in Doha, Qatar on January 7.

The 74 year-old Swiss head of FIFA, who is expected to stand for re-election in May, said the World Cup in South Africa had "a phenomenal impact".

"Back in 2004, when the

competition was awarded to South Africa, the country was a young republic that had been in existence for ten years and was looking to find its place in the modern world

"Since then, both the rest of the world and South Africa itself have come to realise just how important a country it is."

He nonetheless expressed disappointment that more African national sides apart from Ghana did not make it to the second round of the competition.

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